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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS PROCEDURES EVOKE CONFIDENCE

### Comptroller's Evaluation of Current URGENT Procedures Reflect Change

KINGSTON, NY (January 22, 2013)...Ulster County Comptroller Elliott Auerbach, critical of the lack of sufficient internal controls over Confidential Funds prior to the arrest and conviction of Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (URGENT) leader Tim Matthews, recently conducted a nearly one year review and found the agency has formalized procedures that strengthened earlier weaknesses and provides reasonable assurances that prudent financial practices have been instituted.

"In an effort to find an opportunity in a crisis situation, Ulster County Sheriff Paul Van Blarcum and Undersheriff Frank Faluotico were able to vigorously implement General Orders which bolstered internal controls and quickly removed the risks associated with the handling of confidential investigative funds for URGENT," said the Comptroller.

The review covered the period of January 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012 and had the following objectives:

- Determine the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls over Confidential Investigative funds.
- Evaluate compliance with departmental procedures and guidelines.
- Verify accounting practices, tacking methods, cash transactions and cash on hand.
- Confirm that Confidential Funds are safeguarded.

Auerbach said that the Benjamin Franklin quote, ***out of adversity comes opportunity*** rings true in this situation. "The review team had tremendous cooperation from the Sheriff and Undersheriff and found no irregularities associated with cash accounting while offering further administrative recommendations to reinforce the process."

The report, entitled **CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS REVIEW**, can be found on line at [www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/comptroller)

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